

## **SAN ANTONIO TO RECEIVE \$10 MILLION FOR GREEN RETROFIT INITIATIVE**

Washington, DC – Today Vice President Joseph Biden announced a \$10 million federal grant award for the San Antonio Green Retrofit Initiative as part of the Recovery Act funding to “ramp-up” energy efficiency building retrofits.

“As we celebrate Earth Day, I am proud to see San Antonio will be at the forefront of the Green Retrofit Initiative,” said Congressman Charles Gonzalez (TX-20). “Providing affordable and sustainable energy to the businesses and residents of San Antonio is not only a smart investment but a necessary one. This funding will help us achieve a greener and more energy-efficient economy while creating jobs and protecting the air we breathe and water we drink.”

The San Antonio Green Retrofit Initiative will provide a unified single-point-of-service energy efficiency delivery program targeting residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, and public buildings. Systematic retrofits will include comprehensive audits, identification of appropriate technology changes, and modification of energy systems. San Antonio’s approach includes a door-to-door outreach campaign tailored to Spanish-speaking households, as well as an online one-stop center for retrofit information.

Under the Department of Energy’s Retrofit Ramp-Up initiative, communities, governments, and non-profit organizations will work together on pioneering and innovative programs for concentrated and broad-based retrofits of neighborhoods and towns – and eventually entire states. These partnerships will support large-scale retrofits and make energy efficiency accessible to hundreds of thousands of homeowners and businesses.

In addition to the \$452 million Recovery Act investment, the 25 projects announced today will leverage an estimated \$2.8 billion dollars from the private sector over the next 3 years to retrofit hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses across the country. Grantees will employ innovative financing models to make these savings accessible, for example by offering low and no-interest loans that are repaid through property tax and utility bills. Overall, the program was eight times oversubscribed, with more than \$3.5 billion in applications submitted for the just over \$450 million in Recovery Act funds available, indicating significant demand for investment in energy-saving and job-creating projects like these nationwide.

The Retrofit Ramp-Up projects, which are part of the overall \$80 billion Recovery Act investment in clean energy and energy-efficiency, complement the Obama Administration's 'Recovery through Retrofit' initiative, which lays the groundwork for a self-sustaining and robust home energy efficiency industry. The awards are the competitive portion of DOE's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, which was funded for the first time under the Recovery Act to help state, local, and tribal communities make strategic investments in improving energy efficiency, reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions.